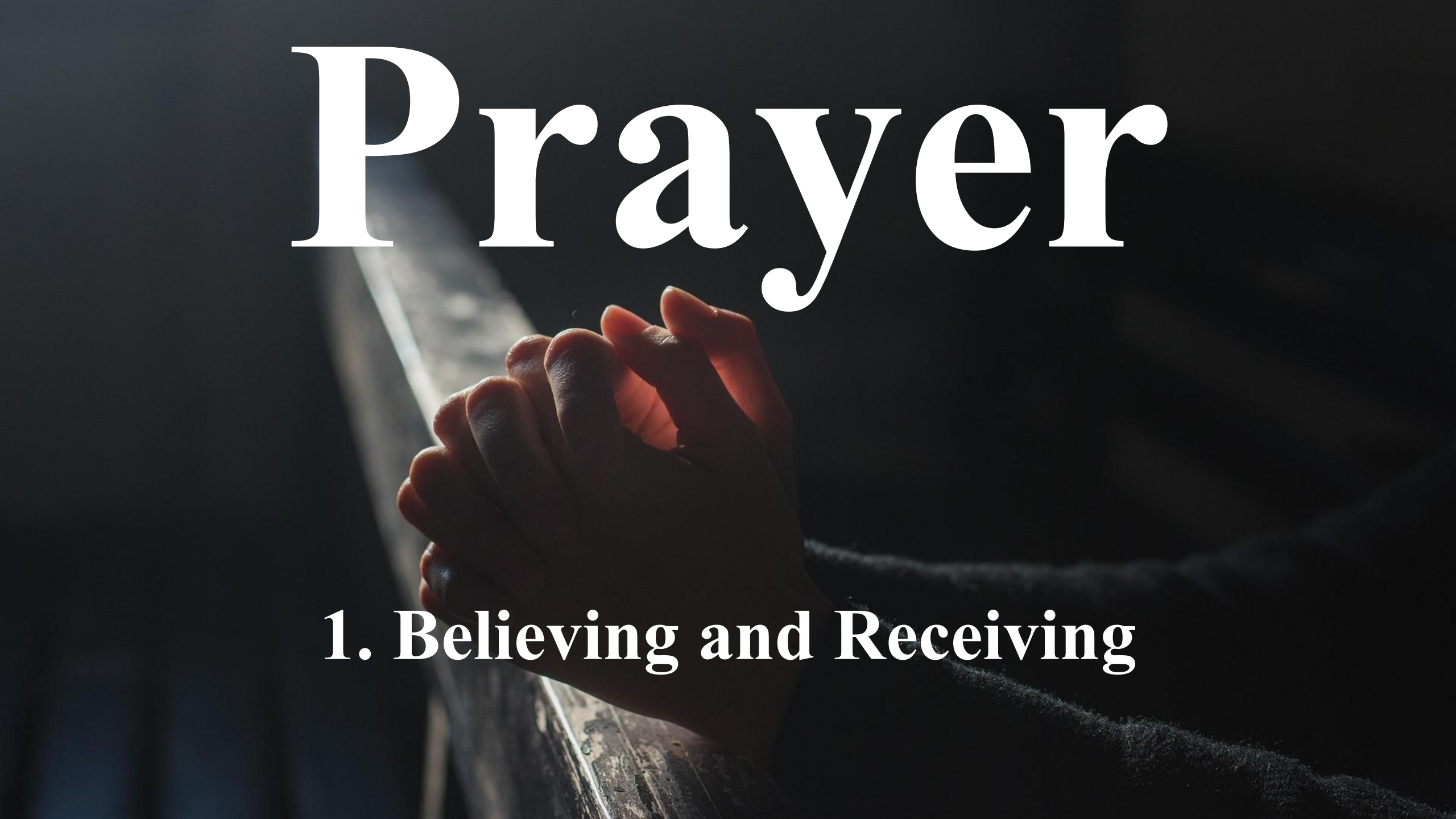


Prayer

A close-up photograph of a person's hands clasped together in a prayer position. The hands are positioned in the lower center of the frame, with fingers interlaced. A strong, diagonal beam of light from the upper left corner illuminates the hands, creating a dramatic contrast with the deep shadows of the surrounding environment. The person is wearing a dark, textured garment, possibly a robe or a heavy sweater. The background is almost entirely black, with some faint, out-of-focus light patterns suggesting an interior space with architectural details.

1. Believing and Receiving

Matthew 21:22 "And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive."

Meaning: Our text verse is spoken by Jesus to His disciples after they saw a fig tree, that Jesus cursed, wither away. The answer to the disciple's questioning minds was, **"have faith and doubt not"** (Matthew 21:21). Faith takes God at His Word and does not get disheartened because prayer is not immediately answered. Delay can be the test of how strong your faith really is.

Application: Faith asks in accordance to God's will and believes that God will answer according to our specific request. Our world does not need the wealthy, the intellectual, or people of great social influence, as much as it needs men of faith and mighty prayer. Faith is increased by the Word of faith and mighty prayer. Faith is increased by the Word of God (Romans 10:17) and will be exercised through testing and trials (I Peter 1:6, 7). C. H. Spurgeon said, "Faith sees God, and God sees faith." The list would be lengthy of those unseen by man but seen by God, because they prayed believing.

Other Verses for Study: Mark 11:24; Luke 7:50; 17:5, 6; Hebrews 11:1, 6; James 1:5-7; 5:15

1. Faith takes God at His _____.
2. What can be a test of the strength of our faith?

3. What will increase our faith?

"Faith does the impossible because it lets God undertake for us, and nothing is impossible with God."